MANAGEMENT AREA #27 Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness Round Mitn

YOLLA BOLLY-MIDDLE EEL WILDERNESS

Total Acres <u>100,807</u> NF Acres <u>100,627</u>

The Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness Management Area encompasses the upper watersheds of the Middle Fork Eel River, Cottonwood Creek, and Thomes Creek The area lies in Trinity, Mendocino, and Tehama Counties

Elevations range from about 2,600 feet at Cottonwood Creek to approximately 8,090 feet on the top of Mt Linn (South Yolla Bolly Mountain). Terrain is steep and rugged in the lower end of the watersheds, and more gentle in the upper watersheds with the exception of the major peaks. Soils are moderately erodible overall, and landslides are the major factor influencing landforms in the steeper areas. This wilderness provides a good sampling of terrains typical of mid to upper watersheds of the North Coast ranges. Vegetation is predominantly mixed conifer interspersed with glades and meadows. Areas with shallow or poor soils are generally occupied by brewer oak or are nearly barren on exposed ridges and mountain peaks. At lower elevations and on southern exposures, vegetation is primarily chaparral with hardwood and conifers. Scattered mature stands of trees occur throughout this Wilderness.

This management area includes critical habitat for northern spotted owl. The area contains suitable nesting and denning habitat for goshawk, marten, and fisher. Major big game species present include black-tailed deer and black bear. A potential peregrine falcon nest site is located within the management area.

A large portion of the management area is within a key watershed. The Middle Fork of the Eel River, North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Eel River, and Balm of Gilead Creek provide summer holding habitat for summer steelhead. The Middle Fork of the Eel River supports the largest single run of summer steelhead in the State, and illegal take of these fish poses a serious threat to their continued existence. The Middle Fork Eel and Balm of Gilead Creek have been found eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and are recommended for such designation under this Plan. Runoff from the upper watersheds of the Middle Fork Eel River, Cottonwood Creek, and Thomes Creek is used for fisheries, wildlife, irrigation, and domestic uses. This Wilderness is a Class 1 Airshed.

Epilobium nivium, Lewisia stebbinsii, and Raillardella scabrida occur within this management area. Potential habitat exists for Linanthus harknessii ssp. condensatus and Lupinus antoninus. A small, isolated stand of foxtail pine in the Mt. Linn area is the southernmost known population in the North Coast Range.

The area averages two lightning fires per year. Natural fuel is heavy from the lower elevations to near the timber line as the result of fire exclusion over the past 75 years.

Old roads are causing erosion problems at several locations within areas added to this Wilderness in 1984, including but not limited to Stick Lake Canyon, Green Springs Ridge, and parcels recently gained through exchange Also within the recent Wilderness additions are the Willow Creek and Henthorne Grazing Allotments and a portion of the Foster Glades Allotment. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, ridgelines within this Wilderness were heavily grazed by both cattle and sheep.

Six trailheads provide entry into the Wilderness from the Mendocino National Forest. Major uses of the area are foot/horse trail use and deer hunting. Use is restricted by snow from late November through May. The trail system serving these uses has descended from the old "cowboy trails" and is experiencing some erosion, partly due to poor location.

Past land exchanges have reduced the private inholdings within the original Wilderness boundary to one small tract of about 40 acres. Several parcels of private land lie within the newly added portion of the Wilderness.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION ALLOCATION

Management Prescription		Acres
Wilderness	• • • •	 100,627

Management Direction

Follow management direction provided in the Wilderness Management Prescription.

Meet or exceed air quality standards for a Class I airshed, and continue to monitor air quality.

Pursue acquisition of appropriate portions of BLM lands as proposed in the Record of Decision for the Arcata Resource Management Plan, 1992. Manage those portions acquired within the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness following the direction in this Land and Resource Management Plan.

Evaluate the potential for establishing a Red Fir Research Natural Area within the Wilderness.

Conduct a botanical survey of ultramatic areas and upper elevation areas.

Complete preparation of wild & scenic river management plans consistent with the Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River Acts. In the interim, manage the upper reaches of the Middle Fork of the Eel River, Balm of Gilead, and a segment of the South Fork of the Trinity River consistent with Wild River and wilderness direction.

Provide for recreational use of the wild & scenic rivers consistent with protection of wild river values (e.g. anadromous fisheries), and do not sign Wild & Scenic River corridors within wilderness.

Update the Wilderness Implementation Schedule (WIS), in coordination between the three administering National Forests, stating specific actions prioritized pending budget allocations. Update the WIS annually or as needed. Organize and chair an annual meeting in the early spring to update the WIS for the following year, coordinate annual activities, and develop workload assignments for upcoming NEPA, data collection, and monitoring.

When a special use permit is requested, the request will be forwarded to the Mendocino to determine wether the request is consistent with YBME direction, the priority of the request for NEPA and issuance, and to coordinate the preparation of NEPA documents

Coordinate with CDF&G to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to anadromous fish from over-fishing and poaching.

Address fish stocking when developing or revising wilderness management direction. Allow stocking to continue provided it does not interfere with peak recreation use.

Develop and maintain a record of fish stocking including an inventory of stocking dates, species, and methods used.

Consider reducing or eliminating fish stocking as one of a series of management steps to bring use within limits of acceptable change.

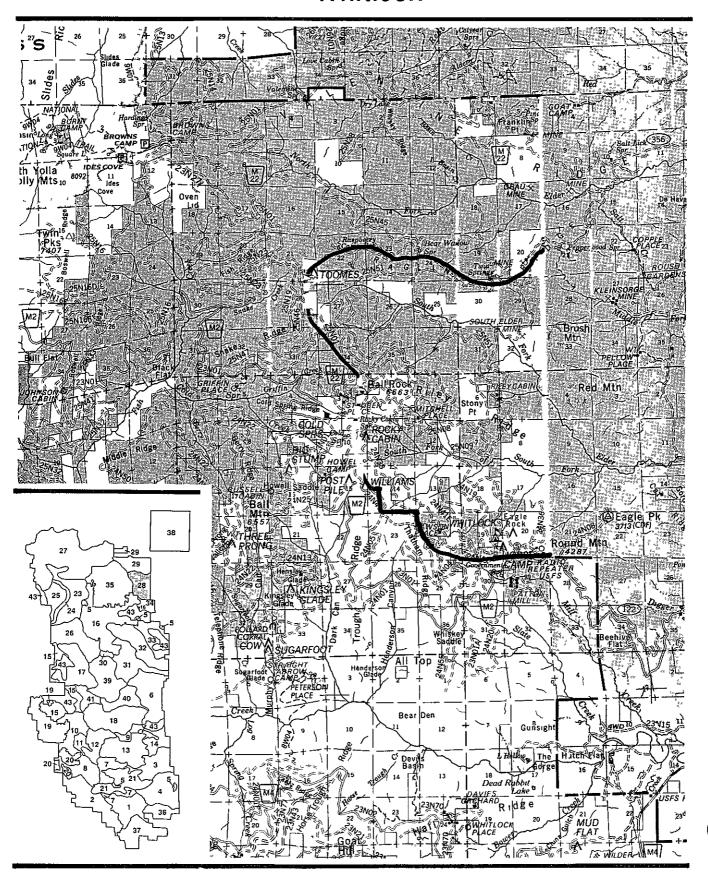
Protect the potential peregrine nest site.

Assess the opportunity to re-introduce Roosevelt elk within its natural range

Key Wildlife Habitat

Species	<u>Description</u>
Northern Spotted Owl	Dispersal habitat
Goshawk	Nesting habitat
	Dispersal habitat
Peregrine Falcon	Potential nest site
Deer	Portion of Indian Dick key winter range portions of
	Leech Lake Mountain, Ball Rock, and Wells Cabin/
	Plaskett key summer ranges
	Entire Yolla Bolly Wilderness key summer range
Marten/Fisher	Denning habitat
Summer Steelhead	Holding, spawning, and rearing habitat
Winter-run Steelhead	Spawning and rearing habitat
	•

Whitlock



WHITLOCK

Total Acres <u>15,906</u> NF Acres 6,610

The Whitlock Management Area extends from Raglin Ridge south to Road #23N01 The Forest boundary forms the eastern edge of this management area, and Ball Mountain the western edge. This area lies within Tehama county.

Terrain is gentle along ridgetops and steep on sideslopes immediately above the creeks. Elevations range from about 1,000 feet to 6,660 feet at Ball Rock. The area is drained by Elder Creek. Vegetation ranges from brush and grasslands at the lower elevations, to true fir stands around Rocky Cabin. Annual precipitation in the area averages 30-40 inches, with most of that falling in the form of snow at the higher elevations (over 5,000 feet). Watersheds grade from good to poor condition with decreasing elevation Soils are fertile and moderately deep at mid and upper elevations, but unstable on steep slopes. Lower elevation soils are poorer but retain their unstable characteristics, especially in the serpentine geologic formations near the Forest boundary. This area contains 1,543 acres of suitable timberland.

Black-tailed deer use the area as winter range. Some prescribed burning projects have been conducted to improve deer forage production in the area. Elder Creek is a minor fishery. Several important wet meadows are scattered along the upper elevations of Thatham Ridge in the headwaters of Elder Creek. This management area contains habitat for northern spotted owl, marten, fisher, and goshawk.

The sensitive plant species <u>Hesperolinon tehamense</u> occurs within this management area, and conditions are favorable for occurrence of <u>Epilobium nivium</u>, <u>Hesperolinon drymarioides</u>, <u>Antirrhinum subcordatum</u>, and <u>Eriastrum brandegeae</u>

Heavy concentrations of slash from precommercial thinnings and logging, in combination with heavy brush at the brush/timber transition create a "high hazard" for wildfires; however, fire occurrence has been low

About 70% of the area is accessed by roads. The main road (23N01) is cooperatively maintained by the Forest Service, Crane Mills, and Louisiana-Pacific. The Forest Service has limited access over many of the private roads in the area. An electronic site on Round Mountain is operated under special use permit with the Forest Service.

This area receives significant dispersed recreational use, especially during deer hunting season. Whit-lock Campground is the only developed campground in the area, though there are also several small dispersed camps. This management area lies entirely within the Roaded Natural class of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. Because of easy access, this area will continue to receive significant dispersed use.

Two Coordinated Resource Management Plans apply to this management area.

The area contains the Riley grazing allotment and portions of the Peterson and State Creek grazing allotments

The majority of this area is in private ownership. Landownership is mixed in the north, but exchanges are concentrating public ownership at the higher and lower elevations of the Elder Creek drainage

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION ALLOCATION

Management Prescription	Acres
Wildlife Emphasis	365
Chaparral Management	524
Mınimal Management	. 3,978
Late Successional Reserve *	200
Timber Modified	. 1,543

^{*} Estimated Unmapped LSRs

Management Direction

Utilize National Forest parcels in the northeast portion of this management area adjacent to the South Fork of Elder Creek as exchange base.

Identify and acquire easements necessary for dispersed recreation uses in the southern portion of this management area.

Establish site plans and recommend development levels for dispersed recreation sites.

Coordinate activities proposed on National Forest lands with activities on private lands, to keep the overall level of cumulative watershed effects below the threshold of concern.

Utilize existing Coordinated Resource Management Plans as an additional means of accomplishing needed watershed improvement work

Emphasize prescribed burning, slash disposal, and slash treatment in future projects proposed in "high hazard" areas.

Improve and increase lower elevation wildlife and range opportunities through prescribed burning, water development, and forage seeding where appropriate.

Manage livestock grazing to maintain or improve wet meadows for deer fawning and other riparian resource values

Continue use of the electronic site on Round Mountain.

Key Wildlife Habitat

Species Description

Northern Spotted Owl Dispersal habitat Goshawk Dispersal habitat

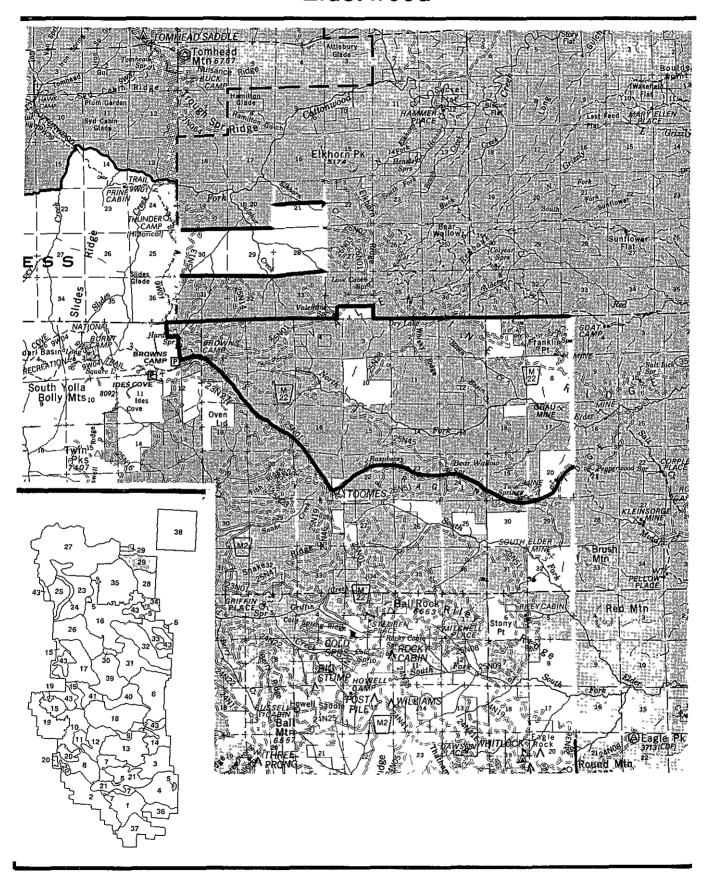
Deer Portion of Ball Rock key summer range

Diversity Seral Stage Goals*

Vegetation Type	Mınimum Acreage Goals
Hardwood	16
Chaparral	42
Mixed Conifer	260

^{*} Minimum acreage for each seral stage within type.

Elderwood



ELDERWOOD

Total Acres <u>18,453</u> NF Acres <u>4,363</u>

The Elderwood Management Area is divided into two areas extending from the eastern Forest boundary to the wilderness boundary at the northwest corner. It is all within Tehama County.

Terrain in this management area is steep. The major streamcourses within this area are Elk Creek, Sulfur Creek, and the North Fork of Elder Creek. Elevations range from 3,483 feet at Franklin Point, to approximately 5,800 feet at Harding Springs. Vegetation varies from brush and grasslands at the lower elevations to red fir stands at the higher elevations. Annual precipitation averages 35-40 inches, with most of that falling in the form of snow at elevations above 5,000 feet. The watersheds are generally in fair to poor condition because of natural instability and past logging. Soils are generally shallow, rocky, and of fair productivity. Most of the timber within this area consists of widely scattered, mixed conifer stands. Timber productivity ranges from poor to very good, with stands in the northern portion of the management area being the most productive and the most concentrated. This area contains 813 acres of suitable timberland.

Black-tailed deer use the upper elevations as summer range. The summer range is limited in forage and fawning cover due to inadequate regeneration of traditionally important browse species such as bitter cherry and mountain white thorn. A potential peregrine falcon nest site is located within the area. This management area contains habitat for northern spotted owl, marten, fisher, and goshawk.

No sensitive plant species are known to occur within this management area, but potential habitat exists for <u>Antirrhinum subcordatum</u>, <u>Hesperolinon drymarioides</u>, <u>Hesperolinon tehamense</u>, and <u>Madia stebbinsii</u>

Fire occurrence is low in this area

Most of the roads in this management area are private, except for those that access National Forest lands. Roads 25N01 and 25N27 are the only National Forest system roads with full public right-of-way Approximately 80% of the forested land is currently roaded. Part of the Valentine Ridge Road (25N01), which is the main access into this area, is cooperatively maintained by the Forest Service, Crane Mills and Louisiana-Pacific

Recreation use in this area is light and well dispersed. Use occurs primarily during deer season. The majority of the area falls within the Roaded Natural class of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.

Timber management is difficult due to long log haul distances and high costs for road maintenance.

The majority of the land within this management area is privately owned, with National Forest landbase consisting of scattered, odd-shaped parcels.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION ALLOCATION

Management Prescription	<u>Acres</u>
Wildlife Emphasis	209
Chaparral Management	694
Minimal Management	. 2,547
Late Successional Reserve *	100
Timber Modified	813

^{*} Estimated Unmapped LSR

Management Direction

Continue to utilize these Federal lands in land exchange programs to consolidate National Forest ownership in other areas.

Defer activities in this management area, particularly in the "Panhandle" parcel, which would adversely affect the Forest Service' ability to use these National Forest lands as an exchange base.

Key Wildlife Habitat

Species	Description
---------	-------------

Northern Spotted Owl Dispersal habitat
Goshawk Dispersal habitat
Peregrine Falcon Potential nest site

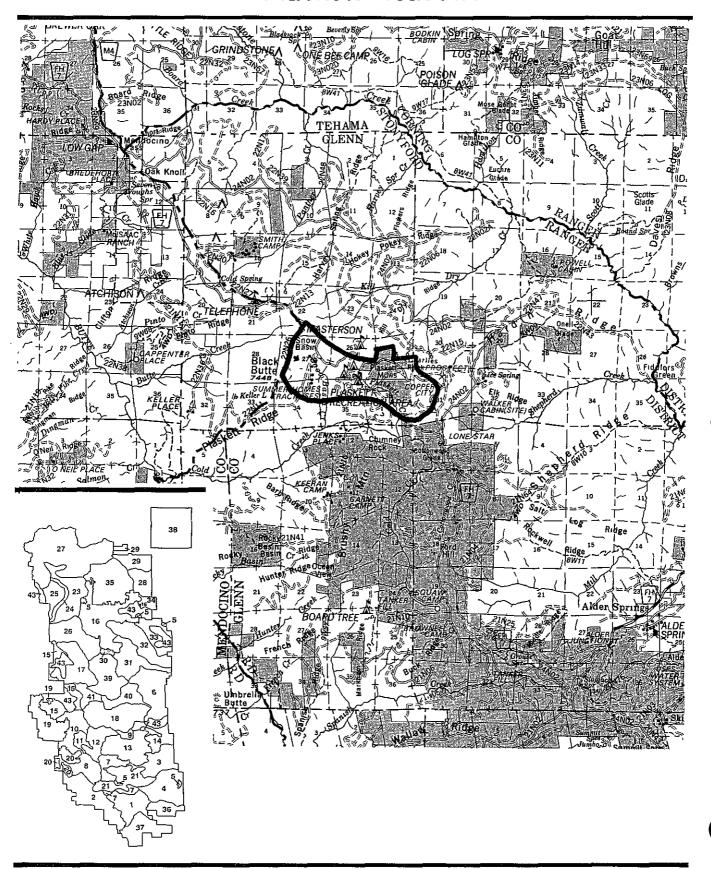
Deer Portion of Ball Rock key summer range

Diversity Seral Stage Goals*

Vegetation Type	Minimum Acreage Goals
Hardwood	16
Chaparral	56
Mixed Conifer	146

^{*} Minimum acreage for each seral stage within type.

Plaskett Meadows



PLASKETT MEADOWS

Total Acres 2,350 NF Acres 2,350

The Plaskett Meadows Management Area is located on the eastern flank of Black Butte Mountain, in Glenn County. The Plaskett Meadows Recreation Area, which is approximately 600 acres, is located within this management area. The recreation area includes two small lakes, Plaskett Campground, and a Day Use area.

Elevations in the area range from 5,800 to 7,400 feet at Black Butte Mountain. The area is heavily timbered with some large wet meadows. The cooler temperatures at this elevation make this area an attractive recreational area when temperatures are high in the valleys. The area contains 740 acres of suitable timberland.

Habitat for goshawk, black bear, northern spotted owl, and pileated woodpecker is found within this management area. This is also an important deer fawning area. This management area contains habitat for northern spotted owl, marten, fisher, and goshawk. The western portion of this area contains critical habitat for northern spotted owl, and the majority of the management area is within the Black Butte River key watershed.

This area has outstanding botanical diversity and has been intensively studied. This area contains the first reported location of <u>Linanthus harknessii</u> ssp. <u>condensatus</u>, the one sensitive plant species occurring in this management area. Meadows within this area contain the largest number of typical meadow plant species of any meadow area on this Forest. Twenty-three <u>Carex</u> species have been collected here.

This area is located within a moderate fire hazard area. Timber areas have light to moderate fuel loadings of logging slash

Forest Highway 7 provides the main access to this area with about 85% of the forested land currently accessed. Grazing has not been authorized in this area since 1980. Past grazing and periodic instances of unauthorized grazing have impacted riparian areas and vegetation, causing concerns over health, safety, and aesthetics in Plaskett Recreation Area.

A special order for Plaskett Meadows Recreation Area prohibits overnight camping outside developed recreation sites, power boats on the lakes, and the discharge of firearms. The Snow Basin Recreation Tract is also located within this management area. The tract consists of 13 cabins which are authorized under special use permit.

The two ponds in this management area are planted with trout each spring, and fish carry over from year to year. These ponds have recurrent problems with aquatic weeds. Stream channel downcutting is currently detracting from the values of this management area

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION ALLOCATION

Management Prescription	<u>Acres</u>
Wildlife Emphasis	108
Chaparral Management	25
Minimal Management	1,127
Recreation Area	250
Late Successional Reserve *	100
Timber Modified	740

^{*} Estimated Unmapped LSR

Management Direction

Continue to emphasize protection and enhancement of the unique recreational, riparian, and botanical resources of this area. These values are especially important in Yellow Jacket Glade and the Snow Basin summer home tract. Do not authorize grazing within these areas or other parts of this management area.

Analyze and pursue upgrading of Forest Highway 7 to a surfaced, two-lane standard, and evaluate the suitability of this route for designation as a Scenic Byway.

Analyze opportunities for the development of watchable wildlife areas and wildlife habitat interpretation for the public.

Direct OHV use away from this area.

Implement watershed improvement projects in Snow Basin to correct stream channel bank erosion.

Evaluate fisheries improvement opportunities and water weed removal in the lakes.

Continue fuels treatment of logging slash to reduce the threat of wildfire.

Key Wildlife Habitat

Species <u>Description</u>

Northern Spotted Owl Dispersal habitat

Critical habitat

Goshawk Dispersal habitat Marten/Fisher Dispersal habitat

Deer Portions of Wells Cabin/Plaskett and Boardtree key

summer ranges

Diversity Seral Stage Goals*

Vegetation Type Minimum Acreage Goals

Chaparral 2 Mixed Conifer 110

^{*} Minimum acreage for each seral stage within type.

MANAGEMENT AREA #31 Grindstone/Harvey Springs PROSPECT X RED MINE PROSPECT X 25 X BLACK DIAMOND GRAY EAR MINE TWOR ALL

GRINDSTONE/HARVEY SPRINGS

Total Acres <u>30,785</u> NF Acres <u>27,284</u>

The northern boundary of this area follows Grindstone Creek northwest to the vicinity of Euchre Glade and Hamilton Creek. The northwestern boundary coincides with the boundary of LSR RC309. The remainder of the western and southern boundaries generally follow Forest Highway 7. This area lies entirely within Glenn County.

Elevations range from 800 feet in Grindstone Canyon at the eastern Forest boundary to over 5,348 feet near Lone Star. The northern and eastern portions of the area are predominately occupied by chaparral species with stringers of conifers and oaks at mid elevations. Dense knobcone pine stands occur on the north aspects above Grindstone Creek Higher elevations consist of mixed conifer species Many slopes and drainages are characterized by slides and slumps in this management area. Soil stability is a concern throughout much of the area. This area contains 2,728 acres of suitable timberland

Wildlife species in the area include deer, northern spotted owl, marten, fisher, goshawk, California thrasher, and black bear. Suitable habitat for elk exists within this management area

Although no sensitive plant species are known to occur within this management area, conditions are favorable for occurrence of <u>Antirrhinum subcordatum</u>.

Fire occurrence is moderate in this area. Prescribed burns in chaparral lands and ridgetop type conversions dominate the landscape in the eastern portion of this management area. Over the past 30 years, the vegetation in Grindstone Canyon has been managed to meet the objectives of providing improved wildlife habitat and forage for domestic livestock, reducing fire hazards in the canyon, and increasing water yields.

Recreation in the form of camping is primarily dispersed, with most of the use occurring during the late deer season. This area offers fishing opportunities, but access is currently difficult. Grindstone Creek is the largest watercourse in the area and contains a good trout fishery in its upper reaches. Mill and Shephard Creeks, tributaries of Grindstone, also have good populations of trout. Steep canyons and brush covered slopes discourage hiking into these drainages. The Long Point trail has not been maintained and has become overgrown with vegetation.

75% of the forested land is accessed by the existing transportation system. Suitable rangeland is utilized for domestic livestock and wildlife. Relatively low numbers of livestock graze a a portion of the Alder Springs allotment in the southern part of this management area

Water quantity from this area is important to downstream use. All water rights in the Stony Creek Basin are adjudicated, but existing water rights are adequate for Forest Service administration. Several subwatersheds within this area are approaching the threshold of concern for cumulative effects.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION ALLOCATION

Management Prescription	<u>Acres</u>
Wildlife Emphasis	3,745
Chaparral Management	7,105
Minimal Management	13,206
Late Successional Reserve *	500
Timber Modified	2,728
* Estimated Unmapped LSRs	

Management Direction

Analyze and pursue upgrading of Forest Highway 7 to a surfaced, two-lane standard, and evaluate the suitability of this route for designation as a Scenic Byway.

Analyze additional opportunities to improve deer forage within key deer range.

Re-open existing trails and/or construct additional trails to access fishing opportunities for anglers who are willing to hike in.

Coordinate activities proposed on National Forest lands with activities on private lands, to keep the overall level of cumulative watershed effects below the threshold of concern

Pursue acquisition of private lands in section 16 through exchange or purchase.

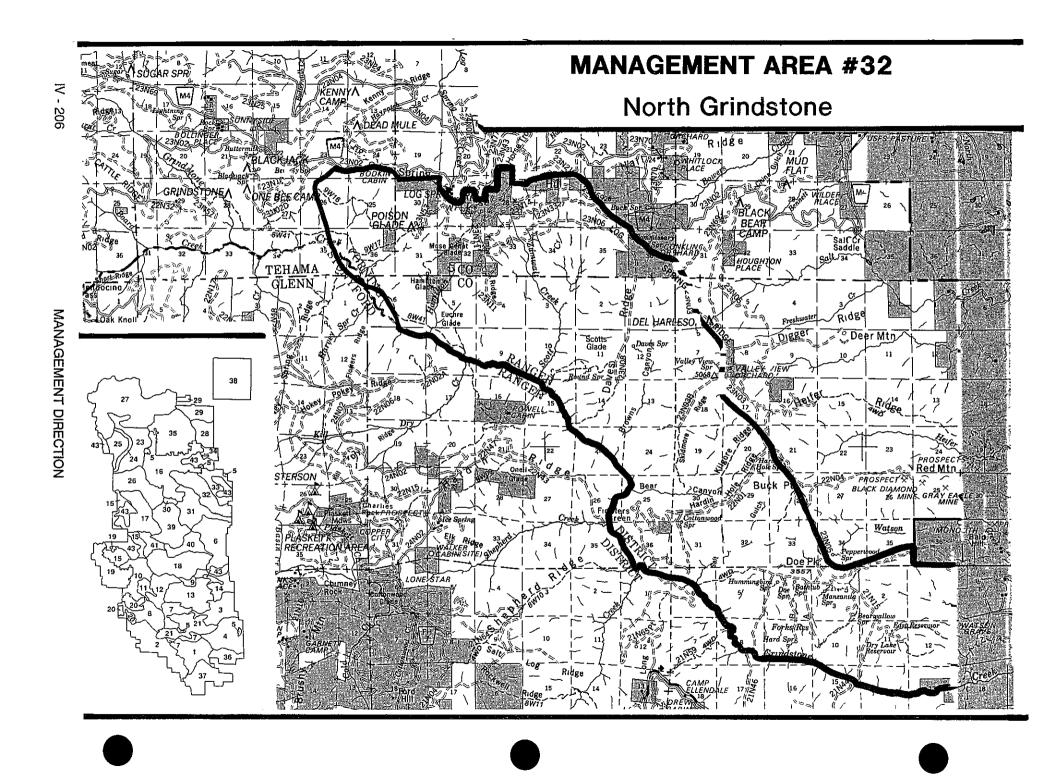
Key Wildlife Habitat

Species	Description
Northern Spotted Owl	Dispersal habitat
Goshawk	Dispersal habitat
Tule Elk	Potential reintroduction site
Deer	Portions of Wells Cabin/Plaskett, Boardtree, and
	Grindstone key summer ranges
Marten/Fisher	Dispersal habitat

Diversity Seral Stage Goals*

Vegetation Type	Mınimum Acreage Goals
Hardwood	206
Chaparral	568
Mixed Conifer	459

^{*} Minimum acreage for each seral stage within type.



NORTH GRINDSTONE

Total Acres <u>33,174</u> NF Acres <u>31,382</u>

This management area lies between Grindstone Creek and Log Springs Ridge. About one-fourth of this management area lies within Tehama County, and three-fourths of it is within Glenn County.

Terrain varies from rolling to steep, and generally faces southwest. Elevations vary from about 1,000 feet along the lower stretches of Grindstone Creek, to about 6,000 feet at Goat Hill Vegetation varies from brush and grasslands at the lower elevations to mixed confer timber stands above 4,000 feet. Timber stands make up about 10% of the area. This area is one of two management areas on the Corning District with predominantly pure ponderosa pine stands. The majority of stands have been harvested at least once and are currently in an understocked condition. Site productivity ranges from moderate to good. Natural reproduction is spotty in harvested areas. Glades, hardwood stands, or brush fields occur at low elevations. Average annual precipitation varies from 30 to 40 inches. Watersheds are generally stable and well-vegetated, however, lower elevation stream channels are steep and unstable. Soils are moderate in depth. This area contains 1,318 acres of suitable timberland.

The area provides winter and transitional range for black-tailed deer. The mixture of grasslands, chaparral, oaks, and mixed conifer provide habitat for a large variety of wildlife. Type conversions within the chaparral and other wildlife habitat improvements have greatly increased the carrying capacity of the area for deer and livestock. Suitable habitat for elk is located within this management area. This management area contains habitat for northern spotted owl, marten, fisher, and goshawk. Grindstone Creek is an important fishery, and supplies water to Black Butte Reservoir and the Orland Irrigation District.

No sensitive plants are known to occur within this management area, but potential habitat may exist for <u>Fritillaria pluriflora</u>, <u>Antirrhinum subcordatum</u>, and <u>Friastrum brandegeae</u>

As part of the Grindstone project, annual prescribed burns in brush, grass, and knobcone pine vegetation types are designed and implemented to reduce wildfire potential, increase water yields, improve wildlife habitat, and increase utilizable range forage. Extensive prescribed burning in the brush zone has occurred over the past 20 years, creating a variety of vegetative age classes, and reducing the potential for large fires. A major fuel break is located on Log Springs Ridge. Several other fuelbreaks are in varying stages of completion.

Roads in the northwestern portion access primarily forested lands. Roads in the southeastern portion access type conversions and grazing allotments. The area is 85% roaded for timber access. Portions of three grazing allotments are located within this management area

This area receives light dispersed recreation use. Use is concentrated during spring and fall. Potential exists for development of fishing access trails and additional horseback riding areas. The pattern of private ownership is concentrated near Goat Hill.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION ALLOCATION

Management Prescription	<u>Acres</u>
Wildlife Emphasis	3,452
Chaparral Management	13,696
Minimal Management	12,716
Late Successional Reserve *	. 200
Timber Modified	. 1,318

^{*} Estimated Unmapped LSRs

Management Direction

Emphasize livestock grazing on the lower elevation type conversions early in the season, and in the glades during the late season.

Manage chaparral for fire protection and to improve forage for deer and livestock.

Improve foot and horse trail access to Grindstone Creek.

Key Wıldlıfe Habitat

<u>Species</u> <u>Description</u>

Northern Spotted Owl Dispersal habitat Goshawk Dispersal habitat

Tule Elk Potential reintroduction site

Deer Portion of North Grindstone key winter range

Diversity Seral Stage Goals*

Vegetation Type Minimum Acreage Goals

Hardwood 171 Chaparral 1,095 Mixed Conifer 205

^{*} Minimum acreage for each seral stage within type.